

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 L-03 AGR-05 H-01 DLOS-09
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3730
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, PLOS, EFIS, US
SUBJECT: STATUS OF EC PROCEDURES TO PUT GIFA INTO FORCE

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 3428 (B) EC BRUSSELS 1781; (C) EC BRUSSELS
3760.

1. EC COMMISSION LEGAL SERVICES (HARDY)AND EC COUNCIL
SECRETARIAT (STEIN) INFORM US THAT THE US-EC GIFA WILL BE
TAKEN UP BY THE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT DURING ITS SESSION IN STRASBOURG NEXT WEEK. THE
COUNCIL PLANS TO HAVE PARLIAMENTARY UNDERSECRETARY OF UKFCO
TOMLINSON REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL PRESIDENCY PRESENT TO EXPLAIN
THE AGREEMENT AT THE CONSULTATION SCHEDULED FOR MAY 11. THE COM-
MITTEE WILL PASS ON THE GIFA
TO THE FULL PARLIAMENT WHICH WILL HOPEFULLY REPORT IT BACK
TO THE COUNCIL ON MAY 13. BOTH HARDY AND STEIN EXPECT
THAT IT SHOULD PASS PARLIAMENT WITHOUT DIFFICULTY SINCE IT
DOES NOT RAISE SERIOUS INTERNAL COMMUNITY ISSUES.
HARDY NOTEDTHAT HE HAD RECEIVED ONE QUERY FROM A MEMBER

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OF PARLIAMENT AS TO WHY THE MEMBER STATES ARE BEING ASKED
TO TAKE ACTION TO ENFORCE US LEGISLATON REGARDING
FISHING IN US WATERS BUT FELT THAT HE HAD SATISFACTORILY
ANSWERED THE QUESTION. HE ANTICIPATED THAT PARLIAMENT
WOULD APPROVE THE GIFA WITHOUT COMMENT BUT NOTED THAT
IT COULD RETURN IT WITH PARLIAMENTARY RECOMMENDATIONS
WHICH, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT BE BINDING ON THE COUNCIL.

2. ONCE AN OPINION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE GIFA WILL BE TAKEN UP FORMALLY BY THE EC COUNCIL. HARDY, STEIN AND OTHER COMMISSION AND MEMBER STATE OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSED COUNCIL REGULATION SUMMARIZED IN PARA 2 REF A AND POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL'S EXTERNAL FISHERY POLICY GROUP AND THE COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) WITHOUT DIFFICULTY PERMITTING THE REGULATION TO BE ENACTED BY ANY CONVENIENT EC COUNCIL AS AN A-POINT (WITHOUT FURTHER DEBATE) OR BY THE WRITTEN PROCEDURES TECHNIQUE IN LATE MAY OR EARLY JUNE WHILE SOME QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED (APPARENTLY LARGELY BY THE UK) REGARDING THE FUNCTIONS AND OPERATIONS OF THE PROPOSED MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGREEMENT, THEY WERE LARGELY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO DATE NO SUBSTANTIVE OBJECTIONS HAVE BEEN EXPRESSED BY ANY MEMBER STATE, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES.

3. COMMISSION AND MEMBER STATE OFFICIALS ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE PROCEDURES WILL BE COMPLETED TO PERMIT THE EC-US GIFA TO GO INTO FORCE WELL BEFORE THE MEMBER STATES BEGIN SCHEDULED FISHING IN US WATERS IN MID-JUNE. THE ITALIAN DELEGATION DCM RECENTLY INFORMED THE MISSION THAT ITALIAN FISHERMEN HOPED TO RESUME THEIR FISHING AROUND JUNE 15 TAKE THE REMAINDER OF THE ITALIAN QUOTAS IN US WATERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPLICATIONS FOR LICENSES SUBMITTED IN MID-FEBRUARY (REFB).
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4. ACTION REQUESTED: AS REQUESTED PARA 3 REF C, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION THAT ALL APPLICATIONS FOR EC FISHERMEN (FRENCH, GERMAN AND ITALIAN) ARE IN ORDER AND THAT FISHING CAN BEGIN SOON AFTER THE GIFA GOES INTO FORCE. HINTON

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